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Controversy Continues Over Short-Term Rental “party house” as Neighbors Demand Councilmember O’Farrell Take Action

Neighbors filed complaints and faced threats from owner, yet illegal short-term rental continues to operate

Activists gather to demand O’Farrell take immediate steps to protect his constituents and enforce the Home Sharing Ordinance

Los Angeles, CA: Better Neighbors LA, Silverlake residents, UNITE HERE Local 11, and other community groups held a socially distanced event at Councilmember Mitch O’Farrell’s district office to demand he take immediate action to shut down a short-term rental in his district they say is violating local laws and health orders and whose owner has threatened neighbors who complained.

“Since September, we have been living next door to a hotel and night club posing as a short-term rental. This is the kind of party house that the Home Sharing Ordinance is supposed to protect residents from. Families like mine all over LA can’t find affordable housing, yet this party house has taken this house, and countless others, across LA, off the market. It is more important than ever that the City shut down this dangerous operation.” –Lilly Taylor, Silverlake neighbor

Since drawing attention to the illegal operation, the neighbors say agents of the property owner have threatened and accosted them in their own home. On January 5, 2021, Better Neighbors LA requested that Councilmember O’Farrell call for an immediate investigation of the illegal short-term rental. Subsequently, the law firm Hadsell Stormer Renick & Dai, LLP, representing the neighbors who faced threats, requested that the City Attorney act to put a halt to the threats.

Since then, the operator has continued to rent the house for parties and attempted to evade enforcement by claiming to rent only long term, and then shifting platforms. Given the threats and harassment reported by the neighbors, the response to complaints has been insufficient and inadequate.

“I am a mother of 5 children. I would do anything to protect my family and to make sure they have an affordable, safe place to live. I am here today in solidarity with the mother, Lilly Taylor, who filed a complaint against an illegal short-term rental in her neighborhood. She and her family faced threats and harassment for filing that complaint. No mother, no parent, no person should face threats when they complain about illegal short-term rentals in their neighborhood.” Karla Andara, UNITE HERE Local 11 member and resident in Councilmember O’Farrell’s district.

Despite the home-sharing ordinance, the city remains inundated with illegal short-term rentals that exacerbate the city's affordable housing crisis. Rather than act to address this, Councilmember O’Farrell has led efforts to weaken the Home Sharing Ordinance by proposing a carve-out that would threaten the availability of rent-controlled units to Angelinos.

Better Neighbors LA helped a neighbor deliver a [formal complaint to the City of Los Angeles regarding the Silverlake short-term rental in December 2020](#), after neighbors made repeated reports about violations of the city's Home Sharing Ordinance to City Planning.

Better Neighbors LA operates [a website and hotline](#) that enables residents and neighbors to report short-term rentals that violate the city's Home Sharing Ordinance. Along with neighborhood advocates, Better Neighbors will resume door-to-door literature drops around alleged illegal short-term rentals until the City increases enforcement of the Home Sharing Ordinance.

Los Angeles passed the Home Sharing Ordinance in 2018 to address an extreme shortage of affordable housing and the negative effects of short-term rentals on long-term housing markets. The Ordinance strictly limits home sharing to primary residences and requires "hosts" of short-term rentals to register for a permit. It also prohibits "host platforms" from processing bookings for listings without a valid City Home Sharing registration number.

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Better Neighbors LA is a coalition of Southern California hosts, tenants, housing activists, hotel workers, and community members. We believe the best way to support true sharing for hosts and guests is also the best way to protect jobs, housing, and communities: by curbing illegal commercial activity in the short-term rental industry.